

REMARKS

In the Office Action of April 6, 2009, claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 9 had been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) from Powell WO/02/087406, and claim 7 had been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 from Powell in view of Pease U.S. Patent No. 1,528,026.

Applicant appreciates the interview courteously granted to and conducted with the undersigned on September 1, 2009. In that interview, the focus was upon the only currently withdrawn independent claim, namely claim 1 and the primary reference to Powell.

During the course of that interview, the currently presented amendments to claim 1 were developed. The undersigned respectfully understands the Office to acknowledge these claim 1 revisions successfully address the rejections based on Powell. It is further appreciated the Office will now conduct further searching for possible art relevant to currently amended claim 1, which is facilitated by the RCE filing simultaneous with this Preliminary Amendment.

In addition, claims 4 and 6 are amended in a manner fully consistent with the revisions to claim 1.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the §102(b) rejection and of the §103 rejection in the previous Office Action are respectfully requested.

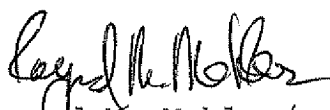
Application No. 10/553,823

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Applicant has made an earnest endeavor to place this application into condition for allowance, and favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

COOK ALEX LTD.



/Raymond M. Mehler/

Raymond M. Mehler

Registration No. 26,306

RMM/sl
200 West Adams Street
Suite 2850
Chicago, Illinois 60606
(312) 236-8500

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